
THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Week 1 ~ Holy Scripture

Introduction and Background

”I believe...”

Historical Background of the WCF

Development and Use of the WCF

American Revisions in 1788

Removed power of church discipline from civil magistrate (20:4)

Removed requirement to take a “good and just” oath (22:3)

Changed power of civil magistrate in regard to the church (23:3)

Removed marriage restrictions for spouses (24:4)

Removed language calling the Pope the anti-Christ (25:6)

Changed wording so that only the church can call a synod or council, not civil magistrate (31:1, 2)

1:1

God reveals Himself to man in two ways

Natural/General Revelation

Supernatural/Special Revelation

Differences between the two

Cessation

Characteristics

Inspired – “God-breathed” or “God’s words”

Inerrant – free from error

Infallible – Incapable of error

1:2 and 1:3

The Canon

The Apocrypha

Rule of faith and life

1:4 and 1:5

The Authority of Scripture

The Self-authenticating Nature of Scripture

1:6

The Sufficiency of Scripture

Sufficient for God’s glory, man’s salvation, faith and life

“Good and necessary consequence” e.g., Trinity

NOT Sufficient

To be understood apart from the Holy Spirit

To answer every detail of government and worship (i.e. Presbyterians, Anglicans, Congregationalists, etc.)

1:7, 1:8 and 1:9

The Perspicuity of Scripture

The Original Autographs

The Rule of Interpretation

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